

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 250287 TOSEC 160168

70

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /016 R

66614

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:LMATTESON

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:LMATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 250287 TOSEC 160168

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT RABAT 5068 ACTION ALGIERS INFO  
SECSTATE DTD 22 OCT

QTE

S E C R E T RABAT 5068

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OTRA

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: ASST SECY ATHERTON'S VISIT

1. AS YO KNOW FROM RABAT 5045, KING IS SENDING AIR-  
CRAFT TO CASABLANCA TO TAKE YOU AND PARTY TO MARRAKECH  
IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL. THIS RAISES POSSIBILITY  
OF YOUR AUDIENCE OCCURRING BEFORE WE HAVE HAD AN OPPOR-  
TUNITY TO BRIEF YOU ON FAST-MOVING LOCAL SITUATION. FOR  
THIS CONTINGENCY THE FOLLOWING BRIEF SUMMARY:

A. PREPARATIONS FOR MARCH ARE PROCEEDING AT SUCH SPEED  
AND WITH SUCH MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORT THAT THEY  
CANNOT, IN MY OPINION, BE HALTED WITHOUT SERIOUS  
LOGISTICAL AND ESPECIALLY POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES TO THE  
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KING. THIS ALSO OPINION OF SPANISH AMBASSADOR AND

FRENCH AND BRITISH CHARGES WHO WELL INFORMED. FACT THAT MAJORITY OF MARCHERS WILL BE UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE WHO ALREADY MAINTAINING LOW STANDARD OF LIVING MAKES LOGISTICS RELATIVELY EASY BUT EARLY RECALL MORE DIFFICULT.

B. UNDER ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT MOST UNLIKELY THAT ANY UN OR OTHER PROPOSAL LEADING ONLY TO TRANSITORY PEACE-KEEPING MEASURES WITHOUT TOUCHING SUBSTANCE OF TERRITORIAL TRANSFER WOULD RECEIVE MUCH ATTENTION. KING WILL NOT BE OPEN TO PROCEDURAL SUGGESTIONS UNLESS HE IS GIVEN SOME IDEA AT WHAT SUBSTANTIVE ENDS THESE ARE AIMED.

C. US INFLUENCE WOULD BE STRENGTHENED TO THE EXTENT THAT USG IS WILLING TO PUT SOME PRESSURE ON SPAIN (UNLESS NEED FOR THIS OVERTAKEN BY RESULTS OF BILATERAL SPANISH-MOROCCAN MEETINGS REPORTED IN RABAT 5054 AND RABAT 5046.)

D. NEVERTHELESS, ONE POSSIBLE TEMPORARY MEASURE, IF SPEEDILY ADOPTED BY UN SECURITY COUNCIL COULD MAKE AN IMMEDIATE CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE, THAT IS IF SC, HOPEFULLY WITH THE AGREEMENT OF BOTH SPAIN AND MOROCCO, AND AVOIDING ALL HORTATORY LANGUAGE, COULD AGREE TO AND DISPATCH A MISSION IMMEDIATELY TO THE SAHARA TO ACCOMPANY AND OBSERVE THD MARCH. THIS WOULD ADD DIGNITY TO BOTH SIDES AND MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN LIMITING INCIDENTS WHICH OTHERWISE UNSETTLING POSSIBILITY.

2. DEPT. PLEASE PASS SECY'S PARTY AND OTHER ADDRESSEES AS DESIRED.

NEUMANN  
UNQTE INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

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**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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